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US Politico Here Seeking Asylum

Austin Burton, who won the 1968 New Hampshire Republican vice-presidential primary election, is in Panama trying to arrange for asylum in a European country because of what he terms political persecution in the United States.

Burton, 52 also is known as Chief Burning Wood. He says he is one-eighth Delaware Indian on his father's side.

He blames all his troubles on his victory in the New Hampshire vice-presidential primary on the Republican ticket the only nominating contest for the No. 2 post held in the United States.

Burton asserts he is being persecuted for demanding that President Richard M. Nixon his pledge that his running mate would be chosen from among those tested in the fires of the primaries" and also for opposing the Vietnam war.

The story American tells a bizarre tale of assassination attempts, interception of mail, car sabotage, and false arrests since March, 1969 when he fled to Canada from Arizona to escape what he calls an "execution squad" from the FBI. He alleges that the FBI and local police were used to harass him.

Burton arrived in Panama three months ago, but it is only now that he has disclosed his presence. With him was Irene Jergensen, a German citizen who helped him campaign. She has since left for Europe for cancer treatment, according to Burton.

Their harassment in Canada, at the instigation of American authorities, Burton reports, forced them to leave that country early this year. He flew to Mexico and Miss Jergensen followed him by car. Together, they travelled

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down Central America, arriving in Panama in April.

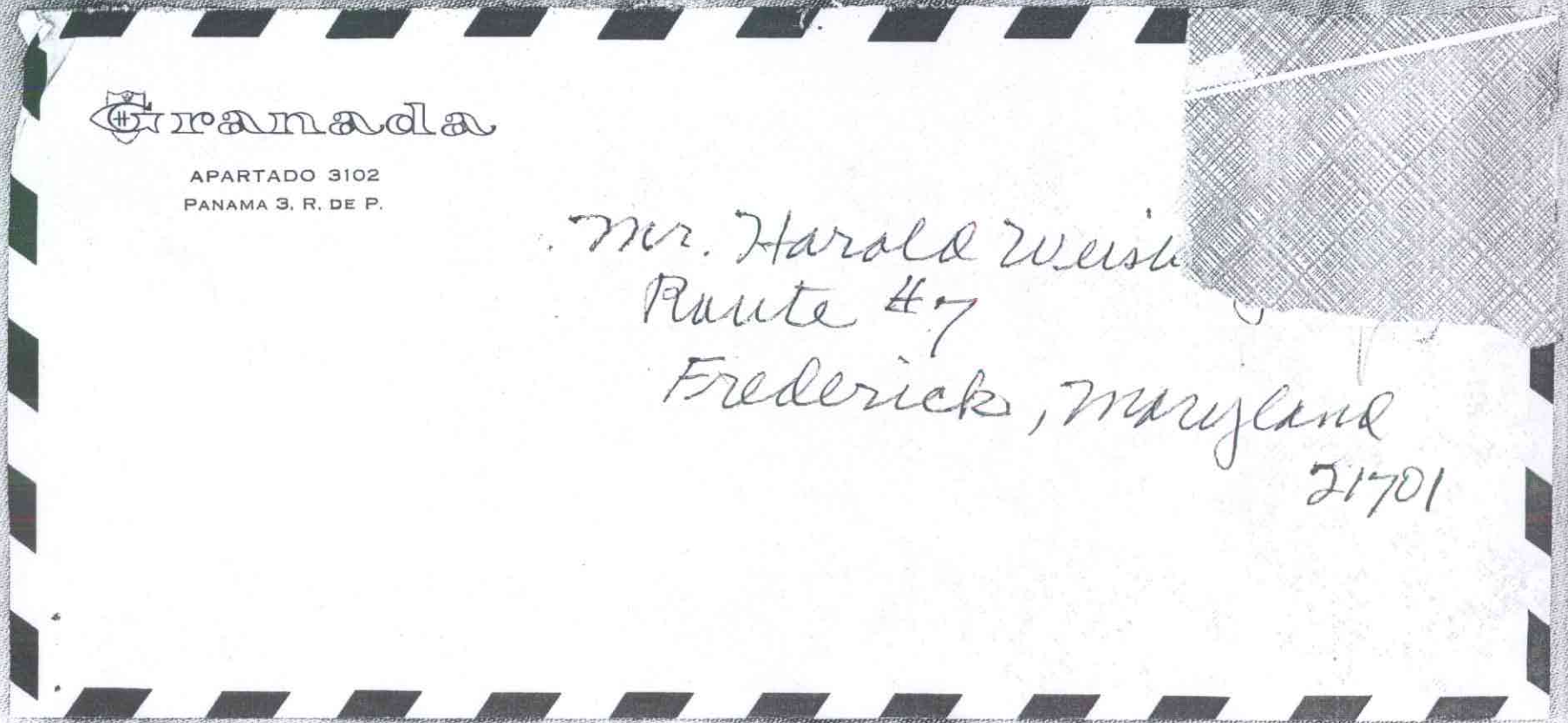
The couple planned to seek asylum in Peru but the earthquake there and the massive American presence during relief work made Burton and Miss Jergensen change their minds, he says. The Panama Canal Zone "is too close for comfort," Burton says explaining why he does not intend to stay here.

He has applied to a Scandinavian country for asylum.

Burton ran a psychedelic poster business in Greenwich Village, N.Y. For the past few months he claims to have been living off an estate, but adds he now is "near the end of the barrel."

He campaigned for the vice-presidential primary dressed in Indian regalia. He says he started with the American Indian Party and when that folded up he joined the Republicans.

Burton has has been staying at the Hotel El Panama. He carries with him reams of clippings from Stateside papers on his political activities.



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